

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus provided with a plurality of interface means connectible to external devices adapted to store image data and operated by power supplied from a 5 first-connected external device, the printing apparatus adapted to print images stored in the external devices, the printing apparatus comprising:

connection detection means for detecting a connection state of the external devices to the 10 respectively plurality of interface means;

determining means for determining whether or not a total amount of power that the plurality of external devices demands exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means 15 detects that a plurality of external devices are connected; and

selection means for selecting an external device to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a first-connected external device when the determining 20 means determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying.

2. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the first-connected external device is in an idle state, 25 the selection means stops power supply to such idle external device and starts power supply to a later-connected external device.

3. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the selection means, after starting power supply to a later-connected external device, re-starts power supply to a first-connected external device when such
- 5 later-connected external device enters a disconnected state.
4. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selection means comprises notice means for notifying a user that a later-connected external device cannot be used
- 10 when a first-connected external device is in operation.
5. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selection means comprises user selection means for allowing a user to select a usable external device.
6. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 15 interface means comprises a plurality of interfaces of different specifications.
7. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the interface means comprises a memory card interface.
8. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein
- 20 the interface means comprises a USB interface.
9. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the interface means comprises an IEEE 1394 interface.
10. A printing apparatus provided with a plurality of interface means adapted to supply power to external devices,
- 25 the printing apparatus adapted to print images stored in the external devices, the printing apparatus comprising:
  - connection detection means for detecting a

connection state of the external devices to the respectively plurality of interface means;

determining means for determining whether or not a total amount of power that the plurality of external devices 5 demands exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means detects that a plurality of external devices are connected; and

selection means for selecting an external device to 10 be supplied with power according to an operating state of a first-connected external device when the determining means determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying.

15 11. A power supply control method in a printing apparatus provided with a plurality of interface means connectible to external devices adapted to store image data and operated by power supplied from a first-connected external device, the printing apparatus adapted to print images stored in 20 the external devices, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a connection state of the external devices to the respectively plurality of interface means;

determining whether or not a total amount of power that the plurality of external devices demands exceeds an 25 amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means detects that a plurality of external devices are connected; and

selecting an external device to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a first-connected external device when the determining means determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of 5 power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying.